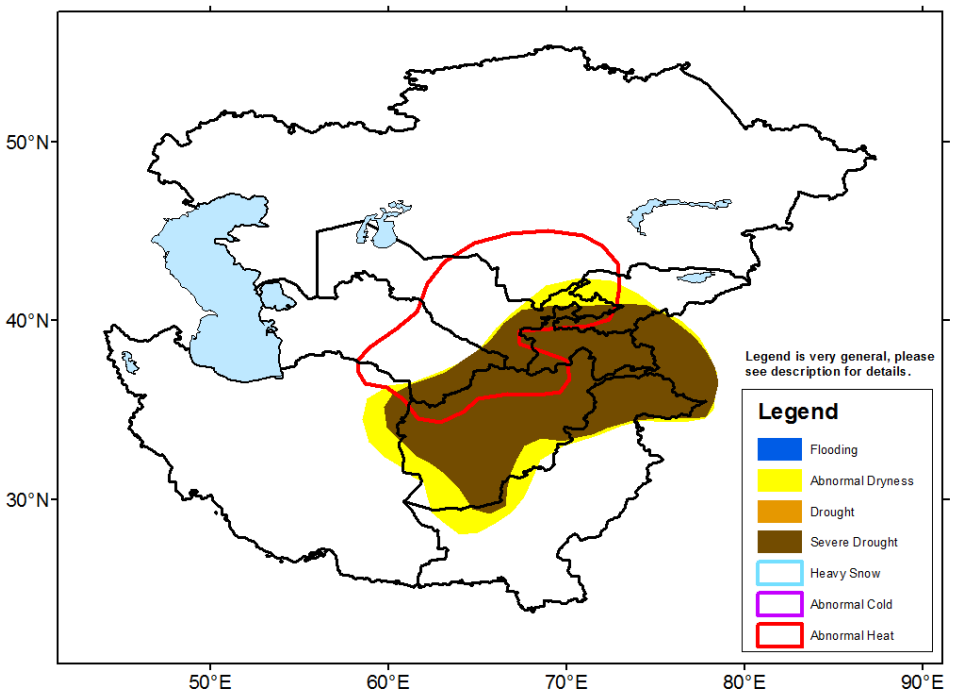
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 1 - 7, 2018

Temperatures:

During the second dekad (10-day period) of February, temperatures averaged above normal over a wide area of Central Asia, including eastern Kazakhstan, northern Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and much of Afghanistan. The largest warm anomalies were observed over southwestern Afghanistan, where positive departures from climatology exceeded 8 degrees Celsius. During the next week, above normal temperatures are expected to continue over the central and southern parts of Central Asia. An abnormal heat polygon is posted over southern Kazakhstan, southern Uzbekistan, southern Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan, where maximum temperature is forecast to exceed 25 degrees Celsius and average 8 degrees Celsius or more above normal.

Precipitation

During late February, widespread light to locally moderate precipitation fell from southern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, southern Turkmenistan, to northeastern Afghanistan. Although this past week's enhancement in precipitation helped to slightly raise snow water volumes over local areas, very low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits persisted over the dry portions of Central Asia. A severe drought polygon is posted over much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries as the ongoing, large moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crops over the coming months. During the next week, scattered moderate to heavy precipitation is forecast over Tajikistan and central Afghanistan, which could help to partially reduce deficits over local areas, while little to light precipitation is expected elsewhere.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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